

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1986

Egypt

A "deviationist minority" has carried out acts of violence, chaos, arson, and destruction which are a "treacherous blow" to progress, President Husni Mubarak told the Egyptian people in a statement broadcast by Cairo radio and television. He confirmed that the riots were not confined to Cairo, noting acts of sabotage in Asyut, Suhaj, and 'Isma'iliyah, and he also revealed that Turah Prison was broken into and prisoners were released. However, the Armed Forces have dealt with the situation, he added, and the authorities have begun interrogating the "large number" of leaders and instigators of the riots who have been arrested. On the origin of the unrest, Mubarak accused "saboteurs" of exploiting "tendentious and baseless rumors" about a 1-year extension of service for conscripts in the Central Security Forces, and he said this had incited conscripts in Al-Jizah and other areas to take to the streets, attacking hotels and other property and killing or wounding a number of security guards.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif subsequently stated in a Cairo Radio interview that the situation was "stable" following the imposition of the curfew, and he said the public had cooperated with the army and police in securing the arrest of rioters in various areas of Cairo 26 February. The curfew will be lifted for 3 hours 27 February to enable citizens to obtain supplies, the radio announced, and the authorities have taken measures to ensure the continued production and distribution of foodstuffs. Official sources cited by MENA stated that the authorities have recaptured a number of criminals who escaped from Turah Prison and that there was no loss of life among foreigners in the areas affected by rioting. Cairo police sources quoted by Jerusalem radio said 15 people were killed and over 300 were wounded in the disturbances. AFP reported gunfire in central Cairo, Al-Ma'adi, and Hulwan 26 February.

As for the opposition parties, MENA reported statements condemning the riots by leaders of the Wafd, Socialist Liberal, Socialist Labor, and 'Ummah parties as well as the National Progressive Unionist Grouping. The agency said President Mubarak would meet with party leaders 27 February to review the current situation, noting *AL-AHRAM's* prediction that Mubarak would give "some blatant examples that confirm the drawbacks of partisan policy."

In Israel, Jerusalem radio said Israeli officials think President Mubarak will overcome the elements causing instability in Egypt but that the riots will slow down the process of improvement in relations. Meanwhile, Damascus television contended that Israel is "gravely concerned" about the "armed uprising" in Egypt, adding that "the Zionist enemy government is expected to propose military support" to assist Mubarak's regime.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces annihilated "hundreds" of enemy troops and destroyed or captured 20 Iraqi tanks in a further advance northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Tehran radio announced early 27

February. In related reports, IRNA said the Iranians captured 16 more villages, stating that Iran has thus far "liberated" 250 sq km of Iraqi territory in its offensive in the north. The agency had earlier mentioned Iraqi losses of 1,500 killed or wounded and 135 captured. Another IRNA report pointed to the Iraqi media's "meaningful silence" about Iran's offensive in the north, saying this shows that the psychological blow of the operation has been as great as its military effect. However, an Iraqi military source acknowledged the Iranian offensive in a statement carried by INA 27 February, claiming that Iraqi troops are in complete control of the situation in the north.

As for the fighting round Al-Faw, INA cited an Iraqi commander's statement that the Iranians were retreating. In the Gulf, Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit a large maritime target 26 February, while the Iraqi Navy subsequently hit three more maritime targets, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. One target of the Iraqi attacks was a large Nigerian oil tanker, the radio noted, citing merchant shipping sources.

Meanwhile, the commander of Iraq's coastal defenses announced that Iraq has expanded its "exclusion" zone in the Gulf, extending the diameter of the line around Khark Island by 30 km to reach the Kuwaiti coast, Radio Monte Carlo reported. For Iran's part, a military spokesman cited by IRNA called on Kuwait to correct the "contradictions" in its policy toward Iran, while Tehran radio noted the Iranian prime minister's warning that Iran "cannot allow some countries to sell oil on behalf of our enemy and calmly transport the oil in the Persian Gulf."

PLO

The PLO has not shelved the accord with Jordan and still considers it valid, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced during a news conference reported by Ankara radio at the end of his visit to Turkey. 'Arafat also said the PLO is ready to resume talks with King Husayn, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Nevertheless, a Palestinian source cited by the East Jerusalem paper *AL-FAJR* disclosed earlier that 'Arafat has "summarily dismissed" PLO officers in Jordan who expressed public support for King Husayn's 19 February speech, and Baghdad Voice of PLO radio likewise carried statements from the West Bank condemning Husayn and those who have supported his speech.

Israel

Palestinian representatives to an international conference must be acceptable to Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed in remarks reported by IDF radio, and he added that the U.S. conditions for PLO participation in such a conference were issued on behalf of the Americans, not Israel, which still has "the right of veto." Nevertheless, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has "hinted" that Israel is willing to negotiate with West Bank Palestinians associated with the PLO. *THE JERUSALEM POST* disclosed, noting that Rabin told 30 prominent West Bank

figures in a 25 February meeting that a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace talks could include "anyone" from the West Bank or Gaza Strip "without qualification." He reaffirmed, however, that representatives from the Palestinian diaspora can only participate if they do not belong to the PLO.

Lebanon

An IDF corporal was killed and four other Israeli soldiers were wounded when their patrol clashed with a "terrorist" squad in Israel's security strip the night of 26 February, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****South Asia**

Vol VIII No 039

27 February 1986

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i**AFGHANISTAN**

PDPA Sends Fraternal Message to CPSU Congress	C 1
Soviet Friendship Group Holds Talks 24 Feb	C 1

INDIA

Minister on Construction of Fencing Along Borders	E 1
Bhagat Notes Grave Concern Over Sri Lanka Crisis	E 1
Minister on Protests Against Militants in UK	E 1
Minister of State for Energy Resigns 27 Feb	E 1
Commission Finds Bomb Caused June Air India Crash [AFP]	E 1
Troops Disperse Feuding Groups in Jammu, Kashmir [AFP]	E 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

Athulathmudali Says India's Bhandari 'Expected Soon'	G 1
Committee Formed to Investigate Lahugala Incident	G 1
Government Forces Launch Air Attacks on Jaffna [AFP]	G 1
'Terrorists' Captured in Eastern Province	G 1
4 'Terrorists' Shot Dead in Tricomalee 23 Feb	G 1

IRAN

Musavi Expresses Hope Saddam Will Soon Be Gone	I 1
Velayati Comments on Geneva Disarmament Talks	I 1
Velayati Interviewed on Foreign Policy, Other Issues [KEYHAN 16 Feb]	I 1
Foreign Ministry Welcomes Ouster of Marcos	I 7
Kuwait 'Tortures,' Expels 22 Iranians 12-26 Feb	I 7
Kuwait Called on To 'Correct' Foreign Policy	I 7
UN Delegation Arrives To Investigate Iraqi Use of CW	I 7
Sheikh ol-Islam Arrives in Kuwait 26 Feb	I 7
War Publicity HQ Appeals for Saddam's Overthrow	I 8
Iraq's 'Meaningful Silence' on Offensive Noted	I 8
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq	I 8
'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 3	I 8
Communique No 2393	I 9
3 Iraqi Battalions 'Annihilated'	I 9
60 Villages 'Liberated'	I 9
Captured Iraqis Transferred	I 10
Commander Denies Forces Cut Off	I 10
250 Km 'Liberated'	I 10
Infantry Battalion 'Exterminated'	I 10
'Hundreds' Killed in 'Val-Fajr-9'	I 10
Iraq Uses 'Chemical Rockets'	I 10
Senior Iraqi Commander Captured	I 10

PDPA Sends Fraternal Message to CPSU Congress

*LD261145 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Feb 86*

[Message from the PDPA Central Committee to the 27th CPSU Congress taking place in Moscow]

[Text] To the 27th CPSU Congress:

Dear comrades, on behalf of the PDPA and all people of revolutionary Afghanistan, we present our warm revolutionary greetings to the 27th congress of the proud Leninist party, to all communists, and the fraternal people of the USSR.

The 27th CPSU Congress is an epoch-making event not only in the life of the USSR, its people, and its party, but in these days all progressive humanity and all men of goodwill are looking with hope at the work of the highest and most credible gathering of the Lenin-line communists.

The toilers of Afghanistan from the depth of their heart are delighted and proud of the gains of the great Soviet people — the revolutionary people, the victorious people, the internationalist people — who, as a result of their devout work, have transformed the USSR into an invincible [word indistinct] of peace, progress, and social justice. In the international field the USSR is faithful to the Leninist principles and continues to support the just emancipating struggles of the masses. The historic peaceful initiative aiming to reduce international tension, eliminate nuclear weapons on earth and in space [words indistinct].

The Afghan patriots are sincerely expressing support for the Leninist policy of the CPSU, its Central Committee, led by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, and they wish the fraternal people continuous victory in the realization of the formidable new CPSU program of progress, peace, and innovation. The USSR has always been and is supporting the states and people who repulse and foil the attacks of the aggressive imperialist forces and struggle for their independence, freedom, and national honor. These words fully correspond with our national, democratic, antifeudal, and anti-imperialist revolution to which the USSR from the start has given fraternal, all-around, and internationalist assistance.

History put two events side by side: the establishment of political relations between Soviet Russia and the regaining of independence by our free-born people. There is an Afghan saying that iron is tempered by fire and friendship by time. Nearly 70 years have elapsed since our friendship tie which after the April Revolution in particular in its new development stage has become fraternal, infallible, and eternal in character. The revolutionary people of Afghanistan with their instincts, free consciences, experience, and test of time, have profoundly perceived that Afghan-USSR friendship is the guarantor of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the DRA. The combat unity and fraternal cooperation between our people are the confident pillars of the national and social progress of our country. In the enterprises and projects built with the cooperation of the USSR, 75 percent industrial output in the government sector is being produced.

Once again we express our profound gratitude to the Soviet communists and to all heroic Soviet people for their unprecedented assistance in the struggle against the criminal aggression of the international imperialism and reaction of the region who continue with their undeclared war against our fatherland Afghanistan. As a result of the continued armed intervention from abroad the Afghan situation still remains difficult and complicated. The just battle of our people under the leadership of the PDPA is continuing against the armed bands exported from abroad. The counterrevolutionaries are killing the civil population; they destroy enterprises, mosques, schools, hospitals, and health centers or set fire to them. However, we believe that victory is ours as the brave Afghan people are defending the revolution and their democratic sovereignty, and the solidarity of all progressive humanity of the globe and in the first instance the great USSR, is with us.

The PDPA, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government and all Afghan patriots in the future will also further consolidate the high new era friendship with the Soviet people. This friendship is one of the brightest manifestation of the Leninist policy of the CPSU regarding the people of the East who are heroically fighting for their national and social independence.

Long life and glory to the 27th historic CPSU Congress. Long live the victorious and internationalist people of the USSR! Long live for ever the friendship and all-around cooperation between the Afghan and Soviet people! Long live proletarian internationalism!

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee.

Soviet Friendship Group Holds Talks 24 Feb

*LD242023 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Feb 86*

[Text] Abdul Majid Sarboland, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, this evening at the Afghanistan Friendship Society with Foreign Countries met with the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society delegation under the chairmanship of (Garly Myalikgajiev), member of the supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR and head of Ashkhabad University.

A BIA correspondent reports that both sides discussed and exchanged views about subjects of mutual interest and development of the scientific and cultural cooperation between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and especially cultural cooperation between the DRA and Turkmen SSR. The meeting passed in a friendly and comradely atmosphere.

The delegation has come to Kabul to attend the ceremony to mark the 65th anniversary of the first Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Good-Neighborliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Minister on Construction of Fencing Along Borders

BK271401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Survey work for construction of wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border, suspended in April 1984, will be resumed shortly. Giving this information in the upper house today in a written reply, the minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, said there is no proposal to undertake fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border. He said having regard to the considerable length of Indo-Bangladesh border, intrusions from Bangladesh through West Bengal into various states cannot be ruled out.

Bhagat Notes Grave Concern Over Sri Lanka Crisis

BK220928 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] India is gravely concerned over the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, in the Rajya Sabha today while replying to a calling attention motion on the situation arising out of the nonsettlement of the ethnic problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The motion was tabled by Mr M.C. Bhandari, Congress-I, and others. The minister said the crisis is a political one and can only be settled through political means. The government is convinced that there can be no military solution to this problem. The problem can be solved depending on the willingness of the Sri Lankan Government to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil population of Sri Lanka through the devolution of appropriate powers within the framework of that country's unity.

The house was informed that India has extended its good offices to the Government of Sri Lanka to assist in the negotiations between the concerned parties. The most serious and distressing result of the continuing crisis is the cycle of violence which has reached dangerous proportions. The house was informed that the crisis has serious repercussions on India as 1 lakh 25 thousand refugees from Sri Lanka have sought sanctuaries in our country.

The minister reiterated that no attack on Indian fishing boats inside Indian waters will be tolerated. Coast Guard and naval authorities have been directed to ensure the safety of Indian fishermen operating in Indian waters and to prevent any intrusions.

During the discussion, members from both sides expressed serious concern over the killings and urged the government to make every effort to solve the crisis.

Minister on Protests Against Militants in UK

BK270855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0838 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] India has repeatedly lodged several protests to the British Government against the growing activities of the militants in that country and urged her to take effective steps to ensure the protection and security of Indian residents there. Stating this in the Rajya Sabha today during question hour, the external affairs

minister said we have conveyed to the British Government that if these activities are not curbed, relations between the two countries are bound to be affected adversely.

Minister of State for Energy Resigns 27 Feb

BK270309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of state for energy, Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, has resigned from the Union Council of Ministers. The president, Giani Zail Singh, has accepted the resignation of Mr Khan.

Commission Finds Bomb Caused June Air India Crash

HK271230 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 27 (AFP) — A bomb hidden in baggage exploded and caused the June 23 crash into the Atlantic of an Air India Boeing 747 that killed 329 people. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) Thursday quoted a governmental inquiry commission as saying in its final report.

PTI said the report was presented Wednesday to Civil Aviation Minister Jagdish Tytler.

Quoting sources close to the ministry, PTI said the bomb had been placed in a piece of baggage and blew up in the forward cargo hold of the jet at 31,000 feet (9,400 meters).

The plane was flying over the ocean off the Irish coast en route to Bombay from Toronto. It was due to stop in London and New Delhi.

Mr. Tytler confirmed in Parliament that the 200-page report by Justice B.N. Kirpal had been submitted to the government but he did not disclose its contents.

Earlier reports said that a Sikh passenger identified as M. Singh was listed before the flight as having reservations but did not board the jet at the last minute in Toronto although his luggage was put on the plane.

Another explosion occurred on the same day in Tokyo's Narita airport after another Air India jet had landed from Canada. Indian sources said the blasts were suspected to be linked with the Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab state.

Troops Disperse Feuding Groups in Jammu, Kashmir

NC231930 Paris AFP in English 1922 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP) — Federal paramilitary troops fired warning shots to disperse feuding groups of Hindus and Moslems today in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The agency added that there were no reports of fresh clashes in three other states wracked by communal strife during the past week.

Athulathmudali Says India's Bhandari 'Expected Soon'

BK231121 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that no fresh invitation had been extended to Indian Foreign Secretary Ramesh Bhandari to come to Sri Lanka for discussions with the Sri Lanka Government regarding a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem.

Mr Athulathmudali in an interview with the *ISLAND* newspaper has, however, reiterated that the earlier invitation — Mr Bhandari was to visit Sri Lanka — still stood. He pointed out that it was Mr Bhandari who was unable to come to Sri Lanka on the last occasion he was expected.

Asked whether the Indian official was scheduled to visit Sri Lanka at the end of this month, the minister said that there was no date fixed but that Mr Bhandari was expected soon.

Committee Formed to Investigate Lahugala Incident

BK231131 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has appointed a 3-man committee to go into the recent incident at Lahugala in the Ampara District in eastern Sri Lanka. It is reported that Marxist terrorists have murdered five Muslim paddy land owners in the area. Subsequently, they had attacked the security forces who tried to rescue farmers whose land had been forcibly taken over at harvesting time. In the incident that followed, 40 Marxist terrorists were alleged to have been killed by the security forces.

According to Lanka PWWATH the committee comprises of the chief of staff of the navy, Commander Atanda de Silva, the army chief of staff, Brigadier M. Mafovela, and the air force chief of staff, Wing Commander Terton Gunawardene.

Government Forces Launch Air Attacks on Jaffna

BK231040 Hong Kong AFP in English (002) GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] (Colombo, Feb 27) (AFP) — At least 11 persons were killed Thursday in air attacks by government forces in the northern Jaffna peninsula, residents there said.

A correspondent in Jaffna said one person died and at least five others were seriously wounded in the attacks launched by helicopters and light aircraft.

The National Security Ministry told *AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE* that the air attacks were launched against the bases of three militant Tamil separatist groups in a pre-emptive strike, but was unable to say immediately whether there were casualties.

Ministry sources said that the security forces had information that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), two of the main militant separatist groups, were preparing to attack security forces camps in Jaffna the northern capital, on Friday.

The sources said that this intelligence was confirmed by a militant separatist captured on Wednesday in Jaffna.

The security forces decided to attack some of the known bases and hideouts of the LTTE, TELO, and the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA) in a pre-emptive air strike ahead of tomorrow's planned attack, the sources said.

Jaffna residents said that three helicopters and two aircraft, believed to be newly-purchased Italian Siai Marchetti ground attack planes, strafed and bombed several areas in Jaffna for more than 30 minutes, destroying some buildings.

Security forces again warned civilians to keep away from militant hideouts and camps as they were likely to attack 30 known places in the peninsula.

'Terrorists' Captured in Eastern Province

BK231115 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] (Fifty-two) terrorists were captured and one killed by security forces in four separate incidents in the island's eastern province on Thursday [20 February] and Friday. According to the news agency LANKA PWWATH, stolen properties, (medicines), vehicles, and ammunition were also recovered by the security forces. The captured terrorists belonged to the Eelam People's Revolution Liberation Front — EPRLF — the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam — PLOTE — and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE.

S. Dharmalingam, a hardcore member of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam — PLOTE — was captured by the police at Kaluwanchikudy in Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka on Friday.

A Tamil civilian named Ganeshamurti was tied to a lamp post and shot dead at Mullaitivu in northern Sri Lanka by Marxist terrorists last Thursday. The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation — TELO — was to have claimed responsibility for the murder. The TELO has described the victim as an informant, according to a note left behind by the group.

4 'Terrorists' Shot Dead in Trincomalee 29 Feb

BK231117 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Security forces shot dead four terrorists and recovered a cache of arms, including mortars and hand grenades when they surrounded and attacked a terrorist hideout at (Siriyaari) in Trincomalee on Sunday. The security forces are reported to have launched a coordinated land-air operation on this village which had been run as a colony by the terrorists. A large number of terrorists fled when the security forces opened fire and many terrorists were reported to have been injured.

Security forces believe that the village was being used by the terrorists for administrative planning and training purposes and even farming on a small scale.

Musavi Expresses Hope Saddam Will Soon Be Gone

LD261423 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpts] During its session this morning, the Cabinet reviewed the latest reports on "Val-Fajr-9" operation.

During the session, referring to the blows dealt by the combatants of Islam to the decomposed body of Saddam's regime recently, the prime minister expressed the hope that with the bravery of the forces of Islam, the region will soon be rid of the filthy presence of the Ba'athist regime of Iraq. The oil minister submitted a report on his trip to the United Arab Emirates. The outcome of the trip was noted by the Cabinet. It was hoped that considering the positive stance of oil producing countries, the plot by Western countries and a few reactionary countries in the region would be foiled.

After the session, regarding the various ways of fighting against oil price drop and the cooperation of some Persian Gulf countries with the Iraqi regime through the sale of oil to that country, the prime minister declared to a group of correspondents: Under no circumstances do we want the war to spread to the region. We wish to live in peace and cooperation with our neighbors. But we cannot allow some countries to sell oil on behalf of our enemy and calmly transport the oil in the Persian Gulf.

Velayati Comments on Geneva Disarmament Talks

LD261951 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Switzerland this morning to take part in the Geneva disarmament conference. Before leaving Tehran, in an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit, he commented on the agenda of this conference and the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The disarmament conference is held each year in Geneva during the early days of the Christian year. Various countries of the world take part and discuss issues related to disarmament or, on a more practical basis, arms limitations in the world.

At the top of the conference agenda is a discussion on nuclear weapons. The discussion here will mainly deal with stockpiles of nuclear weapons in various countries and ways of stopping their proliferation and manufacture in other countries. However, we have some views on the essence of such discussions, that is, it is not at all acceptable to see that several countries have filled their arsenals with stockpiles of these horrific and destructive weapons and at the same time are asking other countries to remain deprived of manufacture or possession of such weapons. No doubt, these weapons and their application are not approved by any humane and knowledgeable person, but they cannot be left in the hands of a group as tools for imposing domination and power by those who have no regard for humane principles in their calculations. However, in our opinion, all existing nuclear weapons in the world should be destroyed.

Another discussion topic, which is very much in our minds, is the issue of chemical weapons, which have been used by Iraq for about 3 years. This has taken place despite repeated resolutions by the international organizations banning the use of such inhumane weapons. During the past several years, this is the third time that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a delegation to take part in the disarmament conference in order to express the views of the Islamic Republic on the disarmament issue in general and on chemical weapons in particular. No doubt efforts in this respect have been effective in throwing light on the problems presented to international organizations in connection with the crimes committed by Iraq and Iraq has been condemned in various ways. That is, various countries and forums have directly or indirectly condemned Iraq for the use of chemical weapons. The latest of these was the recent resolution of the Security Council, and in this connection a delegation of the secretary general may come to Iran today to study and investigate Iraq's use of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We hope that the international organizations will carry out their mission and stop further crimes by the Iraqi regime in the use of chemical weapons. [End recording]

Velayati Interviewed on Foreign Policy, Other Issues

GF241625 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Feb 86 p 16, 17

[Exclusive] interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran — date not given

[Text][Correspondent] What are the relations and coordination of domestic policies in determining the foreign policy of a country, and what are your views on relations between the two?

[Velayati] The domestic policy of a country is not different from its foreign policy. When we are talking about a system it means that we are talking about both. It will be a coordinated and linked system. The Islamic Republic is a coordinated, united and aggregate system. If it was not so it would not be able to withstand the plots hatched against the country. Undoubtedly we had plans in Iran for the reconstruction of our country and progress of the various aspects of the Islamic Republic after the revolution. We have put these plans into effect. We can see that these plans are the roots of the real independence and sovereignty of our people in this land. The fact that we express and act on our own political views in the international field quite independently of the super-powers is a sure indication that it has its roots in the internal situation and in internal policy. In other words, the basis of the entire system rests on the wishes of the general public and their support of the system and the leadership of the leader of the revolution. Without these basic facts it is not at all possible to have a paying foreign policy in the world. If you are not self-sufficient in the economic field you cannot speak from a position of strength in the international forums and in the relations with other countries. If you are not militarily strong your words have no value in the political field. If you do not have the necessary strength at your borders to defend the integrity of the country, you cannot be expected to be recognised as an independent and a strong country. To be brief, on one side of the problem in politics and in the international field is the functionaries who frame the

foreign policy and, on the other hand, are the politicians and the people of the world who should accept your words, or in other words, your policies should be acceptable to them. But this is not practicable unless they are sure that whatever you have said in the political field has deep roots within the country.

[Correspondent] Then what should be the basis for formulating a foreign policy, keeping in view what you have said?

[Velayati] The most important basis that we have in foreign policy is the principle of independence. For years and centuries our ancestors and the people of this land have been following this principle. Now, the basis of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic is also independence and a desire for independence. The slogan "Neither East nor West" is in fact a symbolic slogan to indicate a desire for independence. At present the situation is that one is dependent on the West or the East; one is either eastern or western. Perhaps there may come a time when we have three superpowers or four — one of them having an eastern policy, one a western policy, one a northern policy, and the fourth a southern policy.

In such a situation we will have to say: neither East nor West and neither north nor south. What else should we say in that situation — negative East, negative West? We simply want to say that we are independent and that we do not belong to either of the two powerful blocs. What we really want to do in this world is to have relations with the various countries of the world, except for a few which are well known, and without doing any harm to the independence of our own country.

I must stress the fact again that when we say "Neither East nor West," it does not mean that we do not want to have relations with any country in the world. We only mean that we should not be under the hegemony of any of the world's powerful blocs, we should not be under the hegemony of any foreign power. This is the correct meaning of the slogan "Neither East nor West." We want to be independent and powerful and to speak from a position of strength in the international field and in relation with other countries and do what is in the interest of the Islamic Republic. God willing, we will stand by this position.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, Your Excellency, you have referred to the political East and political West. This is correct as far as the policies are concerned, but what about the question of thought. The East is inclined to Western thinking. In your view what should be the basis of the solution we have adopted or will adopt in the future so that we do not fall under the hegemony and influence of the West?

[Velayati] We have made certain divisions. In fact, we are a part of the group called the culture of the East. In other words, culturally in the East, the axis in recent times has been on Islam. Just as you said now, Western and Eastern policies have both come from Western culture. But how should we act so we are not absorbed by them and keep our own culture, as it is cultural independence which supports political independence? There is a solution: It is a return to oneself, in other words, a return to Islamic culture. We have all we need in Islamic culture and society. To make use of them and to have an independent and powerful country even in the present day world, there is only one

solution and that is to come to ourselves and abstain from being Westernized. We should halt our cultural relations with them. To adopt our own culture on a long-term basis will be our cultural independence, in other words, political independence.

[Correspondent] We see today that Western thinking has reached a dead end in various aspects. As a revolutionary country in the Third World, we are rich in our cultural heritage. What solutions should we adopt so that we do not face the same difficulties as the West and its followers, who have reached a dead end? Meanwhile, it should also be noted that those who are fond of the Western ways of thinking will follow the same methods and be absorbed by them. We cannot compare these with the difficulties and peculiarities of the Third World.

[Velayati] You should know that there are deep cultural fields in various aspects of the Third World. In the PRC, an important section of the Third World, you come across a very old and ancient culture, some 10,000 years old; the same is the case in India and in Mesopotamia, also in Iran and in North Africa. But the Islamic culture is the most cohesive and important culture, and also an Islamic civilization. In order to know what we should do in such circumstances, we should have knowledge of our own past culture and civilization, particularly Islamic culture. A thorough study of the Islamic civilization can open the way to our future thinking and the way we should live our lives. Of course, we do not have unjustified prejudices. Scientific contacts with other parts of the world do not bring in the question of East or West. The basis of logic is found in Greek philosophy. Even after 2,300 years the basis of logic is still the same as that which Aristotle had laid down. It is also the same as that which Socrates laid down. It is therefore clear that knowledge has no bounds, and culture has no bounds. Contacts between the culture enrich it, but not in the way that one culture should impose its hegemony over the other culture and other people. Western people first bring other cultures under their own control, and this is followed by control in politics and economics. The reason that our country has never been a colony of any European country is that it has a deep foundation in its culture and faith. There was a time when for a long time we did not have a proper government. There have been learned people in the country who have even opposed the culture of other countries. This was the most important fortress of the country which could not be conquered by anyone. Militarily, foreigners have occupied our country but culturally they could not. Our military fortress gave in on the arrival of foreigners, who divided our country in two in 1907. The northern part was occupied by the Soviets and the southern by the British. In the beginning Bandar Abbas and the Persian Gulf islands fell to the Portuguese. Sometimes our northern neighbors occupied some important parts of Azerbaijan. Some parts of Khurasan were always under a foreign yoke. For years this part was under the control of the Moguls. In other words, the military and political forts fell to the enemy. For years people ruled the country who directly or indirectly were dependent on others. But the cultural and religious fort never gave in. The only reason for the existence of this society and this nation was the existence of our fort of faith and culture of the people. Even now if we do not want to be led astray by foreign deviations and occupation we must hold fast to our beliefs and culture. If this happens our position is strong. Culturally we should not impose our will on others; we should propagate our faith and our culture. We should

be the ones who lay plans for the world and not they who should determine our future. If this happens we will be successful.

[Correspondent] The plot by the British to reduce oil prices seems to be at the insistence of the Western countries, especially the United States. Why did they do this? It is said this was done to put pressure on the Islamic Republic. Some say that the poor economic condition of these countries made them decrease the price, and some attribute it to putting pressure on Third World countries. What are your views?

[Velayati] I think that this was done primarily to put pressure on Iran and then to put pressure on the Third World and the world of Islam. There is no denying that it is a great help to the Western countries, especially to their companies and the capitalists, to save them from bankruptcy. The way the Western people live, they raise consumption to an extraordinary level and they introduced a culture of waste. This cannot happen except by the destruction of the deprived and poor countries of the Third World. If you look at world statistics you will find that spending in developed countries is far above their basic needs. Such a society is run on the principle of more expenditure, more production. These are the principles that have brought the world to this state of affairs. How long can the developed countries fill their stomachs at the cost of the people of the Third World? Unemployment in the West, the fall of dollar, and daily growing company bankruptcies are the real reasons for the latest plots. Another reason was to deprive the oil-producing countries, mostly in the Islamic world and the Third World of their rightful income and to hurt them economically. A third reason is that they are trying to show a special condescension toward the Islamic Republic by depriving it of its rightful economic income. It is the stability of the Islamic Republic in war which has led them to such tricks in an effort to weaken the economic independence of the Islamic Republic. They think that it is the economic strength of the country which has made the people of the Islamic Republic stand against the enemy. They fail to understand that the economic strength of the country is based on the strength of the people; there are a number of countries which have oil but they have no stability in their systems. There are countries which in addition to oil have other natural resources, but their systems are shaky and they are burdened with huge debts. Although we are not endowed with such blessings as other countries regarding natural resources, like water, climate, and rains, we have a country with a strong political and economic stability. We have been engaged in the war for more than 5 years and have no foreign debts. The high-ranking industrial countries on the other hand have huge debts. Their aim is to weaken the stability and strength of the people against the Iraqi invaders. They are fighting with us with such aims.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, do you not think that these countries, Britain in particular, may suffer economically (lowering oil price) by such tactics and also lose in foreign exchange? Have they thought of any solution?

[Velayati] There is no denying the fact that their tactics will create economic difficulties for them, but on the whole this will be in their interest. Why? The companies which suffer losses can, through their diabolical associations with those companies which earn huge profits, make up their losses. Contacts that the West-

ern industrial countries have with each other enable them to succeed in their aims of keeping prestige and power in the world. These schemes can be counted among those plots which they hatch to rob the rest of the countries in the world.

[Correspondent] What effect will this British plot of lowering oil prices have in relations between the Islamic Republic and the United Kingdom?

[Velayati] It is only natural that their plot will effect our economic and political relations. The volume of our economic relations with other countries is determined through our encounters with those countries. There are several examples which show that we had large-scale economic relations with some countries, but later when we felt that the political stand of some countries with the Islamic Republic were not what they should be, the Islamic Republic took action to curtail its economic relations with the countries.

[Correspondent] In the same connection, sometime ago the Islamic Republic had to face a malicious attitude from some West European countries, the United States, and Canada in the United Nations regarding the human rights resolution against Iran. Similarly, Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, in his interview said on this issue that the Islamic Republic will review its relations with these countries. Would you kindly say what steps have been taken in this respect, and if no steps have been taken when they will be?

[Velayati] One step taken is the limit placed on economic exchanges between the Islamic Republic and these countries. For example, my visit and the visit of the minister of heavy industries was canceled to some of these countries. In any case suitable political and commercial steps have been taken against these countries.

[Correspondent] In relation to this UN resolution, has any limit or boundary been determined for relations with those countries who have taken an hostile attitude against the Islamic Republic?

[Velayati] It is better that we do not set up a basis of our foreign policy and foreign relations on passive lines. We must have the initiative. The human rights charter has been presented in a deviatory way in the United Nations, in the human rights commission, and in various assemblies. The interpretation given is what is desired by the owners of power in the world. Several times our legal authorities have announced that they are ready to have serious debates to outline the human rights rules and regulations. But if it is decided that through their influence in the international assemblies they should make us take a passive line and drag us daily to this or that side, then they have attained their goal. The least they can do through these tactics is to keep us engaged in problems that have no validity. Of course these plans have no validity. Those who submit these plans do not believe in these plans themselves; who does not know the United States more than any other country has violated human rights itself? Who does not know the pitiable condition of the American Indians who are the real owners of the United States? Who in the world does not know that the rights of the blacks are violated in the world? Who does not know that the Americans impose their hegemony in the world wherever they can, and exploit people and their countries? If this

does not violate human rights then what does? It is clear that bringing up this question has political motives; they want to pressure us. However, we act as we deem suitable but we take into consideration the stands of countries against us. In any case, our foreign policy does not depend on the moves of others, because if that were so it would be a passive attitude. We act on what is in our own interest.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, canceling visits and issuing statements is in itself a passive policy, is this not so?

[Velayati] After all, you should show your resentment in some way. In this way you do not change your basic policy and the basic stand you take. If a country wants to show its resentment, you have at least to make a resentful speech. You cannot let them do something that may change your path entirely. The cancellation of my visit and another minister and postponing a visit does not mean that the course of our foreign policy has changed. This is merely an expression of resentment to show that the country concerned has not followed the terms of friendship and good relations.

[Correspondent] The best way to deal with the plot of lowering oil prices is to cut production as much as possible. Keeping in mind the attitude of Saudi Arabia in raising production to the highest limit and the relations of this country and other Persian Gulf region countries with the Islamic Republic, what would be the course of action for the Islamic Republic in respect to its relations with these countries?

[Velayati] The latest news on the Saudi Arabian stand that we know of is from the deputy minister of petroleum who visited Saudi Arabia. He also delivered a letter on this from our president. The situation which the Saudi Arabian king related to him was that Saudi Arabia also wants fixed oil prices and fixed production quotas. We have conveyed our position to him. We are doing our best to have coordination among the OPEC members. To have diplomatic relations with other countries does not mean that what they do should correspond to what you do or what you want. We should follow the same path with those countries who have common interests with us. Iran and the Persian Gulf oil-producing countries have common interests. The problem is oil. Our efforts are for coordination. Admittedly if there is an OPEC member country, whether in the Persian Gulf or any other part of the world, if it does not want to coordinate with the rest our relations with that country will be according to the stance that that country takes in this connection. We should do the same as our enemies and the oil companies in the West, which coordinate their actions against us and also in dealings with each other. OPEC member countries should be united on the question of oil because this is a basic question for us. We have clearly stated our views to the Saudi Arabian authorities, the UAE, Algeria, Libya, and recently to Venezuela, Mexico, and other countries. We also sent a high-ranking political figure of our country to some of these countries; we also sent messages through ambassadors. In any case, our stand on the matter of oil is clear. Just as the Islamic Republic authorities, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable prime minister, the minister of petroleum, and others have said, our stance on the question of oil is fully known: Stability in oil prices and production quotas.

[Correspondent] In relation to the recent visit to Pakistan by our president, and the visit of the prime minister of Turkey to Iran, relations of the Islamic Republic with its neighbors all are important events. How do you view the process of our relations with these countries?

[Velayati] The priority in our foreign policy is expansion of our relations with our neighbors — Turkey, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and the Islamic countries of the Persian Gulf region. We are taking action on this now and will continue to do so in the future. The visit of the Turkish prime minister to Iran, and the visit of our president to Pakistan, the visit of the USSR deputy foreign minister to Tehran, the visit of the Saudi Arabian foreign minister to Tehran, and my return visit to Saudi Arabia all are parts of this policy. We have also given special priority to our relations with the Islamic countries. We prefer to have political and economic relations with the Islamic countries on equal terms rather than with a non-Islamic country. If the same material is available in an Islamic country and a non-Islamic country, we would prefer to buy it from the Islamic country. Similarly, if we wish to sell anything we would prefer to sell it to an Islamic country rather than to a non-Islamic country. Our priorities, as I said, are with our neighbors, Islamic countries, and Third World countries. We will soon have a meeting of the "ECO" [Economic Cooperation Organization] which in fact is an economic cooperation group of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, at Islamabad; deputy ministers of the three countries will attend it. Dr Larijani, the economic and international affairs under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will attend for the Islamic Republic. These meetings will be held in turn in all three countries.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, you have mentioned the relations with the neighboring countries. Of course nobody can reject forming relations with neighbors or other countries, but what would be the cost of these relations? Will the relations established be at the price of the economic revival of a country which is an ally of the United States in NATO?

[Velayati] Whatever move you make in this world is either in relation to individuals or in a collective form. You should categorize the results of such moves and see whether the move made is positive or negative. Now if you set up relations with an Eastern bloc country, then you would say that it is at the price of strengthening the Eastern bloc. If you want to establish relations with a country which should not strengthen either bloc, it would be most difficult to find such a country. I am not trying to deal with this question in detail because I am a member of the forum setting up our foreign policies; I am dealing with this question in general. I do not want to justify what I say, but after all, the result of the Yalta Conference was to polarise the world after WW II. There are countries which are inclined toward the East or the West. You will hardly find a country that has no leaning toward either the West or East. You also cannot forget your own national interests, which are the strengthening of the Islamic Republic. If you set up relations with a country the result automatically would be that this or that bloc is strengthened. What we aim at is to know whether the existence of the Islamic Republic system is real or not. Undoubtedly the Islamic Republic system is the most important principle for us in our foreign policy. There may be people who may question even the Islamic Republic system and

say that we have our constitution, we have the decrees of the reverend imam, tradition, history of Islam, and the teachings of the elders; what use is this system to us?

We have to safeguard Mecca, the highest seat of Islam. We also have to safeguard the Islamic Republic. This principle cannot be challenged. But the question then would arise whether we should discard all which is in contrast to safeguarding the Islamic Republic system and keep only the Islamic Republic system. Of course, safeguarding the Islamic Republic system is not a deviation from the principle; it is within the framework of the principle. Somebody may say that since we have relations with other countries, it is against our principles. We ask, what are the fundamental principles? If fundamentalism is the tradition of Islam, then why did the holy prophet — may peace be upon him — establish relations with the infidels and non-Muslims? He used to send envoys to them. This too was a form of setting up relations. Reverend imam has also twice or three times spoken on this question. He said we want to set up relations with all countries, with the exception of one or two. He also referred to the fact that the holy prophet used to send envoys throughout the world. Now if our fundamental principle is Islam, then Islam authorizes forming relations. Therefore, there is no danger in having a system that supports relations with other countries. What countries could say that they have better criteria for selecting countries they can form relations with? There are countries with which we can never have any relations: Israel and South Africa. There is a country which has so much hostility toward us that we cannot set up relations with it: the United States. Other countries, which are closer to our political and revolution criterions, we would prefer to have relations with them to safeguard our national interests. I will give an example. You import technology from a country, and you have scientific and industrial relations with another country. Since you need technology and scientific and industrial knowledge from another country, there is no harm in setting up relations with such countries. If you do not consider these things, then somebody might ask you why you have relations with that West European country.

[Correspondent] Both Turkey and Pakistan are Islamic countries and Iran's neighbors. Keeping in view your discourse on expanding relations with such countries, would you kindly say why there is so much difference in Iran's volume of trade exchanges and economic relations with Pakistan and Turkey, especially when there is in Pakistan a great inclination to welcome the Islamic revolution?

[Velayati] Of course the volume of our economic relations with Pakistan is not as much as we would like, but in any case it is better than what it was prior to the revolution. Prior to the revolution, the defunct regime used to chant the slogans of relations but their exchanges were with the United States and other hegemony-seeking countries. It had no economic relations with either Pakistan or Turkey. We have so many things in common with Pakistan: the same religion, culture, history, literature, and ethnic relations. Culturally, Pakistan is very cognizant with our language and we too are very familiar with their language. These days countries, even though they have nothing in common, try to create artificial connections. Now that we have natural and common interests with Pakistan, why should we not

take advantage of them and strengthen our relations with this country? You know that the national poet of Pakistan, Allama "Iqbal Lahori", has written most of his work in Persian. Whenever he wanted to speak in the language of his heart, he wrote in Persian. Pakistanis love Iranian culture. Pakistanis love Iran because they got Islam through this country. The Islamic culture and civilization has gone into Pakistan by way of Iran, and there is a considerable similarity in culture and language between Iran and Pakistan. Incidentally, Pakistan is the third biggest Islamic country in the world on the basis of its population (Indonesia and Bangladesh come first). Moreover, we are neighbors and therefore we want to have good relations with this country. The recent visit of the president of the Islamic Republic was a milestone in the expansion of deep relations with Pakistan. Undoubtedly, if we have to seek a unification of the Islamic world, and we do seek this, there is no other way than to get gradually closer to Islamic countries one by one. This is not a task to be done on the spur of the moment. This job takes time. It is necessary that the hearts of these countries get gradually closer, and this is not possible except through contacts, exchange of visits, and communications.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, recently "Korniyenko," the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, visited the Islamic Republic. During his visit he met and held talks with high-ranking officials in the country, including Your Excellency. To begin with, please let me know how positive the talks held were, and second, when will you visit the Soviet Union and what would you talk about in your meetings with the Soviet officials?

[Velayati] We have had and continue to have long and historical relations with each other. About 4 centuries ago our relations were formed with the Soviet Union. Of course, these relations were based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. To have relations with the Soviet Union does not mean that we accept Soviet viewpoints in global and regional politics. For example, we oppose the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and we have conveyed our views to them in formal and diplomatic meetings and in our speeches at international forums. But we can have better relations with the Soviet Union in economic, trade, political, and scientific fields. We would like to have joint development projects. We already have joint projects in the Caspian Sea, the border rivers, steel plants, and power generation fields. God willing, these will continue. Mr Korniyenko, the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, who visited Tehran brought an invitation signed by Mr Shevardnadze, the foreign minister of that country, and asked me to visit the Soviet Union in the current Christian year. I accepted this invitation in writing. The date of the visit will be set after mutual consultations.

[Correspondent] Was the Iraqi war against Iran discussed during meetings with the Soviet deputy foreign minister?

[Velayati] They did talk about war and asked for our views. We gave a detailed account of events in the war and brought them up-to-date on this. We told them why we want the war to continue until victory. We also explained why we want the aggressor, that is, Saddam, to be put on trial. We also explained our views on the future of Iraq and told them that Iran has no intention of interfering in the domestic affairs of that country. On the con-

trary, we expressed our hope that the Iraqi people may set up a government in their country according to the wishes of the majority.

[Correspondent] What was the motive of the recent visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the four African countries, which are in the forefront of the campaign against the racist regime of South Africa? Your Excellency was also accompanying the president on this visit. What was the outcome of the talks of the heads of those countries with Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, you, and the other members of the delegation? How do you see our future relations with them?

[Velayati] One of our strategic aims in our foreign policy is to support the oppressed and Third World countries. At present there are several countries in Africa suffering from a lack of foreign exchange. We consider it an Islamic duty to aid the countries suffering from foreign hegemony and foreign oppression. In South Africa a minority is brutally ruling a majority and the Frontline States around South Africa are under the pressure of this racist regime. The white minority government in South Africa cannot continue to exist without support from some powerful countries. It is therefore obvious that the countries that are battling against the apartheid system need the help of the countries that oppose apartheid. For this reason we visited these countries. We had visited these countries before and strengthened our relations with them. God willing, we will expand our trade relations with these countries as much as possible. Goods that they have and we need we will buy from them, and the goods that we have and they need we will sell to them. They need energy. It has been decided that we will sell to those who need oil (with the exception of Angola), mainly to Tanzania. The goods of countries like Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Tanzania we will buy from them. One of the major exports in Zimbabwe is meat; in Mozambique their major crop is corn, which we need. The major item that we need from Tanzania is timber. We have looked into cooperation with these countries and some transactions have taken place with them. We hope that as a result of this visit we may set up relations with them in a more systematic way. A comprehensive committee has been set up to follow up the results of the visit. This committee has been set up from various ministries; from the prime ministry his excellency Mr "Mirzadeh", the executive deputy to the prime minister; from the Foreign Ministry, the economic and international affairs under secretary; and members from other ministries will take part in the meetings of this committee. It has also been decided that these meetings should occasionally be held in the presence of Mr Khamene'i. It has also been decided that this matter should be followed up in a systematic and orderly manner.

[Correspondent] According to a decision made at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, Zimbabwe has been declared as host of the movement for the next 3 years (1986-1989) and "Robert Gabriel Mugabe," the prime minister, has been chosen as chairman of the movement. What matters were discussed and looked into during the talks between Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i and the prime minister of Zimbabwe, and in the talks between Your Excellency and the foreign minister of that country?

[Velayati] God willing, we will keep in contact with the authorities of the Government of Zimbabwe until the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement takes place in that country. And God willing, we will take part in the meeting at the highest level, at the level of the president, in the next meeting in Zimbabwe. We will do all we can in every possible field, in intellectual and political fields, to see that the meeting is held in the best possible way. We will be in constant consultations with our friends and the countries which are members of the Nonaligned Movement so as to make this meeting fruitful.

The meeting is due to take place in Zimbabwe toward the end of August this year, corresponding to the beginning of the month of Shahrivar in the solar calendar.

[Correspondent] There seem to be some changes in the relations between the PLO and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Would you kindly say what is the position now and what do you see for the future?

[Velayati] Our stand on the question of Palestine is a basic stand and is invariable even if East and West compromise on this question. We believe that Palestine is an Islamic country, and it must be liberated from Zionist occupation. We oppose the fact that a part of this land which belongs to the Muslims be given to the Zionists and a part of it to the Muslims. We believe that this is an Islamic land and belongs to the Muslims. It must be restored to the Muslims and the Palestinians should return to their homeland and set up a government according to the wishes of the majority of the Palestinian Muslims. As for our views on the PLO: What has been performed by the PLO, or any other organization, country, or individual which is against the accepted framework of our principle on this issue is not acceptable to us and we will oppose it. In our view the liberation of Palestine can only be done through force. Giving up guns and turning to political solutions and solutions through compromise will never be accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We believe that Palestine has been usurped by the force of guns, and it should be liberated through the force of guns. There is no other way. The experience in Lebanon has shown that Zionism and the Zionist regime, which has occupied the holy land of Palestine, will not listen to anything unless it is through force.

Israel is not that which some regional compromisers believe it to be; they think of Israel as invincible. No, it is not so. It has become evident that it is a political being without strength to face any confrontation. When a real combatant force raise its head in Lebanon, it withdraws. Not a very large force, in fact a limited force, rose in Lebanon and forced them to withdraw from Beirut to the south of Tyre. If you compare the sophisticated arms that Israel has and its supporters, and the arms with which the Muslims confronted them, one would say that the Muslims fought them with bare hands. If not for the resistance of the Lebanese Muslims, Israel would still be in Beirut. The victory of the Muslims in Lebanon is, in fact, a divine revelation for all the Muslims in the region that if they rise, seeking support from God Almighty and relying on the life-giving Islamic school of thought, and go to the war against the enemies of Islam, there is no doubt that victory and triumph will be theirs. Thank you.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Ouster of Marcos*LD262011 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 26 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Ministry Wednesday in a statement welcomed the ouster of the Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos and expressed hope that the new government would not be one given to cruelty and injustice over the deprived people especially the Muslims in southern islands of the country.

In its statement the ministry also expressed hope that the people of the Philippines would establish independent domestic and international policies without interference of the foreign powers particularly the United States.

The ministry said that the U.S. politicians who have backed Marcos for 20 years are now aiming to misuse the liberation movement of the people.

The liberation seeking people of Philippines will achieve their exalted goals if they keep their unity and solidarity and continue their presence in the scene.

Kuwait 'Tortures,' Expels 22 Iranians 12-26 Feb*LD261416 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 86*

[Text] In continuation of its unprincipled actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the past few days the Kuwaiti Government expelled 17 more Muslim Iranian workers residing in that country.

According to an IRNA report, the group arrived in the port of Ganaveh in motor boats; their property had been confiscated earlier. They were transported to the camp for Kuwaiti refugees in Bushehr and put in housing there.

According to this report, before deporting Iranians the Kuwaiti Government usually imprisons them for some time and subjects them to physical and mental torture.

In the past 2 weeks, 22 Iranians living in Kuwait have been deported after being detained and tortured for some time.

Kuwait Called on to 'Correct' Foreign Policy*LD261706 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 26 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — A spokesman for Iran's War Information Headquarters Wednesday called on Kuwait to explain conflicting opinions expressed by government for those of the state-controlled press and some elements in the administration.

The spokesman said in bilateral talks between the two countries, Kuwaiti officials had emphasized that they did not want the war to spread to Kuwait but the state-controlled press and some government officials act contradictory to this official position.

"What the Kuwaiti press is printing these days indicates that the Kuwait regime might be under pressure from the Iraqi regime" he said.

It is also possible that those newspapers affiliated to Iraq's Ba'th Party and some government officials who are under Ba'th influence seek to expand the war, he added. The spokesman said it would be in the interest of the Kuwaiti Government to correct this duality since "these contradictions are unbearable for us."

The Islamic Republic does not seek to involve Kuwait with the destiny of Iraq's Ba'th rulers, it is the Ba'th regime that seeks to expand the war, he said.

The spokesman added "We warn that while we seek to guard and expand bilateral relation with Kuwait but any aggression against the Islamic Republic" he emphasised. [Sentence as received]

UN Delegation Arrives To Investigate Iraqi Use of CW*GF270556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Feb 86*

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, last night the special delegation of the United Nations headed by Mr Iqbal Rida, general secretary for the Political Office of the UN secretary general [name and title as heard], arrived in Tehran. They were welcomed by the Foreign Ministry deputy in charge of international organization affairs.

During an interview with our correspondent, the Foreign Ministry deputy in charge of international organizations affairs of our country spoke in connection with the visit of this delegation to Tehran. He said: Contrary to the UN resolution prohibiting the use of chemical weapons, the Iraqi regime has many times used chemical weapons during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations against the combatants of Islam. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran asked the United Nations secretary general to investigate the matter and to send a delegation to our country to investigate the truth on the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. He added: This delegation, headed by the general secretary for the Political Office of the UN secretary general, a number of military experts, and impartial international doctors have arrived in Tehran to investigate the region infected with chemicals and to visit the combatants who have been wounded as a result of chemical bombs. This delegation will deliver the report of their work to the UN secretary general after the necessary investigation and viewing has been carried out.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives in Kuwait 26 Feb*GF270534 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Feb 86*

[Text] Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for political affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday arrived in Kuwait from Doha. He was received at the airport by a number of Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait and the Iranian Embassy staff in Kuwait.

Talks between Sheykh ol-Islam and Kuwaiti senior officials will deal with bilateral relations and the current state of the international oil market.

The political under secretary at the Foreign Ministry earlier began a tour of the Persian Gulf countries designed to coordinate with these countries to foil the plot of international arrogance to reduce oil prices.

War Publicity HQ Appeals for Saddam's Overthrow

*LD261735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Feb 86*

["Statement" by the War Publicity Headquarters on 26 February addressed to the Muslim inhabitants of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, the Iraqi Armed Forces, and the Muslim Iraqi nation]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

Oh struggling, Muslim inhabitants of the Al-Sulaymaniyah region. Islam's mighty combatants now have large areas of the territory of northern Iraq and the general heights in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region under their control and already have liberated a great many areas formerly evacuated and destroyed by the Ba'thist regime. Despite the fact that they are overlooking Al-Sulaymaniyah and Chuwartah, our mighty combatants have no intention of harming you and your cities and homes when you, yourselves, have been victims of the oppressive Iraqi regime.

They are striving for your liberation from that regime's clutches. Under the shadow of the might of Islam's liberation army, redouble your mobility, deal blows at the interests and agents of the waning Saddam regime as the enemy's morale is gravely shaken. Today is the day of your freedom, the day of Iraq's freedom, and the day for determining Iraq's destiny. Islam's forces are at your service, O struggling, Muslim people of Iraq.

O pilots and personnel of the Iraqi Army. We know you have been forced into the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraqi POW's are a witness to this reality. Before being killed along the path of the infidel Saddam and before losing this opportunity, seek asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran and together with your aircraft land at our air bases where you will be welcomed by us. Come to the sanctuary of Islam and escape from the heli kindled for you by the heads of the Ba'th Party!

O Muslim Iraqi nation. We are at war with the heads of the Ba'th Party and with Saddam's gang who have come from Tikrit — that small number of people who are the cause of all Iraq's defeats and difficulties — and the day when these traitorous heads are destroyed the foundations of the Ba'th Party propped up by Saddam's dictatorship will crash to the ground and the Ba'thist regime will be overthrown. On that day you Muslim nation of Iraq, hand in hand with the heroic Iranian people, will move at speed toward dear Jerusalem!

Succour from God and a night victory.

[Signed] The War Publicity Headquarters.

Iraq's 'Meaningful Silence' on Offensive Noted

LD261853 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Some 40 hours after Iran's Muslim combatants launched their Val-Fajr-9 offensive in northeastern Al-Sulaymaniyah the Baghdad regime continues to keep silent on the issue.

The Iraqi rulers who were not expecting an Iranian offensive in the area are now faced with a complex situation where Iraq's Muslim Kurdish combatants have gained significant mobility.

The long silence of the Iraqi propaganda apparatus indicates that the psychological blow of the Val-Fajr-9 offensive has not been less than its military effect.

Iraq's senior commanders who had rallied their forces in the Al-Faw cannot explain the surprise attack of the Iranian forces from which they have suffered.

Western media were basing their analysis on information gathered from satellites and Iraqi military commanders were claiming that the next Iranian assault would come in Susangerd, Hawr al-Huwayzah or in the south.

The Western media which have correspondents in Baghdad have coordinated their efforts with Iraq's meaningful silence.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 3

*LD261150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Feb 86*

[Communique No 3 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on military operations 25-26 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O selfless nation of Islam! O zealous nation! The mighty warriors of Islam, after consolidating the positions captured in the first phase of the "Val-Fajr-9" operations, last night began the second phase of these operations in order to liberate other important strategic heights in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region of Iraq: After crossing numerous obstacles and the difficult snow-covered terrain and mountains of Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, our warriors succeeded in capturing several more heights in the course of a series of mountain-crossing operations. In the second phase of the proud "Val-Fajr-9" operations, the selfless forces of Islam succeeded in capturing the mountain range of Kouh Nam-Nam and Espi-Darreh, which include the heights numbered 1350, 1567, 1500, 1598, 1560, 1460, 1320, 1200, 1480, 1380, 1437, 13470, 1170, 1080, and 1220. The enemy fortifications on these heights were surrounded, pounded, and captured by our forces. The defeated forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime suffered heavy losses and casualties.

The forces of the liberating army of Islam, by crossing the (Banawilah) river in the Qoli region, also captured the two

important heights of (Kanasir) and Shah Kuwan and the heights numbered 1382, 1660, 1560, 1580, 1600, 1497, 1460, and 1625 of (Kilan), and the heights numbered 1640, 1205, 1301, 1640, 1319, and 1150 of Zolan. In this phase of the operations, five other Iraqi villages in the Qoli region were purged of the filth of the Saddamites and have come under full control of the forces of Islam. The criminal regime ruling over Iraq had evacuated the inhabitants of these villages and turned them into military bases.

During last night's and today's clashes, additional hundreds of enemy troops were either killed or wounded, and a group were taken prisoner by the ever-victorious forces of Islam. There are some officers and NCO's of the Ba'thist Armed Forces among the dead and the captured. Colonel Mustafa Yunis Sulayman, one of the commanders of the Iraqi 504th Brigade, was among those killed.

Thanks to the liberation of these regions by mighty hands of soldiers of the imam of the era — may God hasten his lofty advent — the Kurdish Muslim warriors and the Iraqi Hezbollah peshmergas are currently enjoying a considerable degree of freedom of movement. These brave combatants can easily launch operations against the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad in this region and can deliver further deadly blows on the rotten Iraqi regime.

The mighty and valiant combatants of Islam are now continuing the task of consolidating and strengthening their positions on the important heights in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region in Iraq. While monitoring and controlling all troop movements by the feeble enemy, they are inflicting irreparable damage and losses on the enemy and are in full control of the liberated regions, pounding the disintegrating forces of Saddam with their crushing firepower. Assistance is from God and our victory is nigh. Give these glad tidings to the believers. [Koranic verse]

Communique No 2393

LD261633 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Iran's Islamic forces launched a series of penetration attacks on Iraqi forces in several axes in northwestern fronts at 24:00 hours local time (20:30 hours GMT) Monday. They occupied all pre-determined targets one after the other and inflicted substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces.

The Communique Number 2393 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said here Wednesday that in one axis at least 45 Iraqi soldiers were killed, another group captured and a great deal of light and heavy weapons of theirs were seized by Iranian forces.

The Islamic combatants pounded Iraqi positions after they had crossed a river and passed through many mine fields and barbed wire set up by Iraqi forces along the axis, the command said. In another axis, Iranian combatants after infiltrating Iraqi positions and destroying over 15 gun emplacements opened fire on Iraqi personnel who were fleeing from the region inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them. The Iranian unit after successfully carrying out their mission returned to their base safely at dawn Tuesday, according to the communique.

In the last axis, Iran's Muslim combatants at the early hours of the clashes which broke out at 03:30 hours Tuesday (24:00 hours GMT Monday) pounded Iraqi positions and forced enemy troops to abandon the region while sustaining heavy casualties and losses. The Iranian forces returned to their base safely without any casualties or damage at 09:30 hours local time (06:00 hours GMT) Tuesday, said the communique.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi forces killed and wounded at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and demolished three vehicles as well as parts of their positions.

3 Iraqi Battalions 'Annihilated'

LD261751 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 26, IRNA — At least 1500 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded and another group captured since the start of the Iranian Val-Fajr-9 offensive on Monday night.

Some 135 Iraqi soldiers captured during the offensive have been transferred behind the fronts.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' IRGC Army joint headquarters said here Wednesday that Iranian forces have so far annihilated three Iraqi battalions of Brigade 504 and 44 military bases of theirs since Monday night.

The Iranian forces have also seized ten 106 mm guns, forty various mortar launchers, thirty light and heavy vehicles, a central telecommunications storage depot, fifteen infra-red binoculars, ten engineering vehicles and trailers, thirty munitions dumps and two hundred light and heavy weapons and a 100-number telephone center of Iraqi forces according to the headquarters.

The Iranian forces are fortifying their positions and shelling enemy forces in the region, the headquarters concluded.

60 Villages 'Liberated'

LD261939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Unidentified correspondent's report from "Val-Fajr-9" operational zone]

[Excerpts] Continuing the pride-bringing second stage operations of "Val-Fajr-9," the fighting combatants of the army of Islam are consolidating their positions and strengthening them. They are continuing to advance and penetrate the trenches and positions of the enemy; they have killed or captured more Iraqi troops. At this time the number of Iraqi troops killed is more than 1,000.

So far, about 200 square km of the province of Al-Sulaymaniyah has been captured by the forces of Islam. Also, with the capture of the villages of Surleh, [word indistinct] Zultamuh, Barezan, Puzerash, Khamalah, Zelamu, Kanimaran, Sarkhar, and Asiyab which were liberated during the second stage of the "Val-Fajr-9"

operations, the total number of villages liberated in these operations up to now has reached 60. One of the outstanding points in these operations was the complete [word indistinct] of the combatants of Islam over the province of Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq, which is one of the most important provinces for Iraq's (?People's Army) and 80 percent of the oil exports of that country passes through this town which is linked to the port of Aqaba.

Captured Iraqis Transferred

LD261632 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — One hundred and twenty Iraqi prisoners of war captured northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah during the Val-Fajr-9 operations were transferred behind the battlefronts Tuesday.

Among the Iraqi POW's are several commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Commander Denies Forces Cut Off

LD270722 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb. 27, IRNA — An Iranian commander stationed in the operational headquarters of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, here Thursday categorically denied the Iraqi claim that it has cut off the connection of the frontline Iranian forces with those behind the battlefields.

Speaking to IRNA he added that employment of "exceptional and unprecedented tactics" the connection of the two lines of the fronts was invulnerable. He added that members of the reconstruction crusade have established highly reliable connection details of which will be revealed in an appropriate time.

250 Km 'Liberated'

LD270738 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] N.E. Al-Sulaymaniyah Operation Region, Feb. 27 IRNA — The Iranian Forces in the course of the ongoing victorious Val-Fajr-9 offensive mounted Monday night in northeast Al-Sulaymaniyah area, have so far liberated a total of 250 sq. kms of Iraqi territory.

In the Wednesday night operation, the Islamic Forces of Iran demolished another part of the Iraqi first army.

Infantry Battalion 'Exterminated'

GF270816 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0738 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers, everywhere: In the third stage of "Val-Fajr-9" operations last night, the Islamic heroes controlled 21 new heights. They liberated 16 villages, 6 mountain bases, and concentration centers for the forces of the ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq. They

exterminated a commando and mountain infantry-battalion of the 504th Brigade of the 7th Division of the Iraqi I Army Corps.

'Hundreds' Killed in 'Val-Fajr-9'

GF270926 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0909 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners' please pay attention, please pay attention to news which has just reached us. According to a report from Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Revolution Guards Corps, last night during the third operation of "Val-Fajr-9" operation, while infiltrating positions of the dying Iraqi Bathist-Zionist forces, the heroes of the Islamic army succeeded in killing hundreds and imprisoned a number of others. Also last night the God-seeking combatants of Islam destroyed more than 15 enemy tanks and managed to safely seize 5 of their tanks.

"With the assistance of God victory is at hand" [Koranic verse]

Iraq Uses 'Chemical Rockets'

LD270941 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 27, IRNA — The Iraqi regime once again in defiance of all internationally accepted laws and regulations, deployed toxic chemicals against Islamic forces of Iran, in Al-Faw region, Thursday morning.

The Iraqi bombardment was carried out at a time when a United Nations inspection team arrived in Tehran Wednesday night to investigate the repeated Iraqi usage of the chemical weapons and file a report on the casualties caused by these bombs.

An Iraqi warplane dropped two chemical rockets on the operational region of the Val Fajr-8 offensive, southern sector of warfronts. However, the precautionary measures of the Islamic forces of Iran and aimless dropping of the rockets, minimised the casualties.

The Iraqi regime has resorted to such inhuman actions to make up for its humiliating defeats in warfronts and has in practice proved its total disrespect for international organisations and the world public opinion.

Senior Iraqi Commander Captured

LD271000 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb. 27, IRNA — A senior Iraqi commander was taken captive in the operational theater of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, Al-Faw, Thursday morning, an informed military source announced here Thursday.

The commander is said to have been injured. The source added that more details will be released soon.